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**Twenty-One Years in Papua.** A History of the English Church Mission in New Guinea (1891-1912). By Arthur Kent Chignell. xv and 157 pp. Map, ills. The Young Churchman Co., Milwaukee, 1913. \$1. 7½ x 5.

The scene of this unpretentious yet important little volume is the north shore of the southeastern extension of New Guinea from Samarai to the German boundary line. Effectively it covers not much more than the distance to the second cape to the northwest, for the progress of all mission labor in New Guinea has been as slow as it is dangerous. With great sacrifices the missionaries who have worked upon this coast (among the pioneers this author stands), have given us all we know of the geography and ethnology of the region and for a long time to come we shall have to rest upon their endeavors. Having made a reconnaissance of that shore line several years before it was assigned to the Church Missionary Society I can certify to the essential accuracy and value of the geographical material contained in this narrative.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**The Belief in Immortality and the Worship of the Dead.** By J. G. Frazer. Vol. 1: The Belief among the Aborigines of Australia, the Torres Straits Islands, New Guinea and Melanesia. The Gifford Lectures, St. Andrews, 1911-12. xxi and 495 pp. Index. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1913. \$3.25. 9 x 6.

With this volume Dr. Frazer begins a work which may be expected to rival the "Golden Bough" in magnitude. He follows exactly the same method in this as in the former work, very encyclopedic in the massing of material from every source, diffuse and oppressive by its mass. He does not yet make clear to what end these new studies are directed, therefore we have no hint as to the theory of interpretation with which we should regard this mass of data.

We may properly assume that it is only for mechanical reasons in making a volume that in this first volume he deals with cultures so diverse as the Australian and the Melanesian, for there can be no logical association of the wanderers of the continent and the sedentary societies of the islands.

A much more grave defect of this work is that while Dr. Frazer assembles a large amount of material germane to his topic, so much material that we may feel convinced that it was his intention to gather up all with no omissions, he does not undertake to evaluate any of the material. I do not assume to comment upon this matter in reference to the Australians, for my acquaintance, even in part familiarity, with those races is just sufficient to serve as a warning against rash criticism. But Melanesia I know, with the literature of the subject I am familiar and have enjoyed the opportunity to subject it to critical examination in the field. I instance this objection by citing the lectures upon Fijian custom. Dr. Frazer gleans, rather he reaps, the crop from Williams, from Fison, from Basil Thomson, yet nowhere does he suggest that these authorities widely vary. Williams had the advantage of being early in the field, of observing each detail of custom while it was still a matter of living faith. That should stamp him as an authority of the first rank. Unfortunately his record is under grave suspicion; we know it to have been falsified and the original is no longer recoverable. Lorimer Fison I knew in Fiji as a very careful observer so far as is possible to one who has had no schooling in ethnography, and the period of his observation has been the period when contamination with foreign vices and foreign virtues has become well established in Fijian life. Basil Thomson has observed with special skill, with an insight into the philosophy of culture and social life, but his observations are as modern as my own. Here we have the great objection to all of Dr. Frazer's work. The amount of information which he amasses is enormous, but quantity can never supply the place of quality. Lacking record of the competency of the witnesses we cannot estimate the evidential value of their testimony, therefore we lack confidence in the proof based upon such material.

Furthermore in the present volume Dr. Frazer seems to proceed on the assumption that death and the soul and life hereafter (he pays scant attention to the belief in a death of the soul as a terminus of a life hereafter) are matters of great importance. In the life of these primitives death is a negligible incident. The life after death seldom reaches the concept of immortality.

and in common is looked forward to as an inconvenience which the soul must undergo and which it seeks to throw back upon the survivors of the family.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

## EUROPE

**The Story of the Forth.** By H. M. Cadell. xvii and 299 pp. Maps, ills., index. James MacLehose & Sons, Glasgow, 1913. 16s. 10 x 7½.

The story of the Forth is a story worth reading and may well appeal to the physiographer, the student of industrial history or the engineer. Beginning in the remote past before the Carboniferous period, the reader is lead through various changes of landscape to the present. The chapter devoted to the long struggle for supremacy between the drainage of the Clyde and the Forth is the most interesting. The diagrams and the imaginary landscapes add much to the effectiveness of the presentation. The volume contains many excellent maps that should be studied by every student of European physiography for they present in clear and usable form the essentials of the physiographic history of the Forth so skillfully portrayed. From the physiographic standpoint the volume is a distinct contribution, none the less to be commended because it will appeal to the layman who can read it with understanding and interest.

RICHARD ELWOOD DODGE.

**La Race Slave.** Statistique-Démographie-Anthropologie. Par Lubor Niederle. Traduit du Tchèque par Louis Léger. Nouvelle Collection Scientifique. xii and 231 pp. Map. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1911. Fr. 3.50. 7½ x 4½.

With the question of Pan-Slavism always at the background of the politics and domestic statecraft of Eastern Europe this manual will serve to satisfy such as wish to acquire a superficial familiarity with the problems of Slavic life and to direct the more advanced studies of such as may be attracted to detailed investigation of a most interesting culture. The race has long existed without political entity. For centuries it has been the protesting and suffering minority in kingdoms and empires. It has by turns been used, been tolerated, been abused in Russia, in Austria and in Turkey. At this time of writing it is reconstructing the political map of the Near East. It is very timely that here we have a work in which we may study, at the pause before the recent wars broke out, the history and character of the peoples who have fought a way to the walls of tottering Constantinople. Prof. Niederle writes enthusiastically, he is proud of the history of his race, he feels the sting of its ages of suffering. Yet that does not detract from the value of the work as a compend of history. He wrote on this topic a few years earlier, a contribution to the work of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. It will readily be comprehended that the earlier work was written with reservations, but in this he has told the tale of his race as he thinks it should be told. We know of no work which will supply the detail with which this volume is crowded.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Jahrbuch des k.k. hydrographischen Zentralbureaus im k.k. Ministerium für öffentliche Arbeiten.** Vol. 15, 1907, and Vol. 16, 1908. Maps, diagrams in each. Wien, 1910 and 1911. 15½ x 11 each.

This publication (quarto), issued annually since 1893, gives a complete review of the hydrographic conditions in Austria-Hungary and in the foreign districts tributary to the waterways of the Empire for each year under review. The year book for 1908 contains, for example, the results of observations from 3,163 stations of which 2,702 are in the Empire and 461 in adjoining territories. The general part (57 pp.) gives tabular summaries of results in each of the river basins with explanatory remarks and graphs showing the daily standard of water at the most characteristic stations. This summarized information for the Empire as a whole is given in complete detail in the thirteen accompanying parts, each relating to the territory tributary to one of the thirteen river basins and each illustrated by a fine map of the basin under discussion.